

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 IO-14 DRC-01 /089 W

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P 130421Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4840

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS KS

SUBJECT: BISHOP CHI

1. ACCORDING TO CATHOLIC PRIEST WHO VISITED HIM JULY 12, BISHOP CHI HAK-SON IS RESTRICTED TO RESIDENCE AT THE HOUSE OF THE PAULIST SISTERS IN SEOUL. BISHOP IS SAID TO BE VERY UNHAPPY OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE REMAINED IN ROK-CIA CUSTODY. HE FEELS THAT ROKG GOT BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, HAVING SILENCED CHURCH AND HAVING MADE NO COMMITMENT RE HIS FUTURE.

2. HANDLING OF CHI AFFAIR REPORTEDLY HAS CREATED SOME BITTER DIVISIONS BETWEEN ACTIVISTS AND CONSERVATIVES WITHIN CHURCH OVER FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) EXCESSIVE POLITICAL CONTENT OF PRAYER MEETINGS; (B) SHARPNESS OF DRAFT OF BISHOPS' STATEMENTS; AND (C) FACT THAT ONE AS YET UNKNOWN, BISHIP HAD PASSED BISHOPS' STATEMENT TO ROK CIA. WHILE GENERAL CONTENT STATEMENT ALREADY WIDESPREAD, EXACT WORDING STILL NOT KNOWN OUTSIDE BISHOPS (AND CIA), WHO HAD ALL BEEN COMMITTED TO SECRECY.

3. AS A RESULT OF THIS CONTROVERSY VICAR GENERAL, HAS RESIGNED.

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4. SOURCE COMMENTING FURTHER ON CONVERSATION BETWEEN

CARDINAL KIM AND PRESIDENT PARK SAID THAT AFTER DISCUSSION
OF CHURHC'S POLITICAL POSITION, PRESIDENT PARK HAD
RAISED QUESTION OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION AND REQUESTED
THAT SUCH ACTION BE SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF ALLEGED ADVERSE
IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE.
HOWEVER, CARDINAL REPORTEDLY REFUSED, COUTERING THAT
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES AS MUCH PART OF CHURCH CONCERN
AS QUESTION OF DEMOCRACY.
HABIB

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